

Application No.: 10/774,234
Amendment dated September 22, 2006
Reply to Office Action of August 23, 2006

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Amendments to the Claims

The following claim listing reflects the status of the claims pending in this application.

1. *(Previously Presented)* An arrangement for connecting decorative ornaments, the arrangement comprising:
 - a first ornament having at most a first aperture and a second aperture;
 - a second ornament having at most a first aperture and a second aperture;
 - a first wire connector having a first end inserted into and bent to engage the first aperture of the first ornament and a second end inserted into and bent to engage the first aperture of the second ornament ; and
 - a second wire connector having a first end inserted into and bent to engage the second aperture of the first ornament and a second end inserted into and bent to engage the second aperture of the second ornament;

whereby the second aperture of the first ornament is laterally disposed from the first aperture of the first ornament.
2. *(Cancelled)*
3. *(Previously Presented)* The arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein the second aperture of the second ornament is laterally disposed from the first aperture of the second ornament.
4. *(Original)* The arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein the second aperture of the first ornament is opposite the first aperture of the first ornament.
- 5-8. *(Cancelled)*

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9. *(Original)* The arrangement as recited in claim 1, further comprising at least a third ornament having at least one aperture and at least one third connector connecting the second ornament and the third ornament.

10. *(Previously Presented)* The arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein at least the first wire connector comprises at least one pre-formed U-shaped connector having ends adapted to be inserted into an aperture of an ornament.

11. *(Cancelled)*

12. *(Previously Presented)* The arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein the decorative ornaments comprise one or more beads, crystals, stones, and gems.

13. *(Previously Presented)* The arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein at least the first wire connector comprises a metallic wire having a diameter between about 0.0625 inches and about 0.125 inches.

14. *(Previously Presented)* The arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein the first ornament and the second ornament comprise octagonal ornaments.

15-22. *(Cancelled)*

23. *(Previously Presented)* An arrangement for hanging one or more decorative ornaments, the arrangement comprising:

at least one ornament having at most a first aperture and a second aperture; and

at least one hook having a first end inserted into and bent to engage the first aperture of the ornament, a second end inserted into and bent to engage the second aperture of the ornament, and a loop positioned between the first end and the second end, the loop adapted to be hung from a support;

wherein when hung by the loop, the second aperture of the ornament is laterally disposed from the first aperture of the ornament.

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24. (*Previously Presented*) The arrangement as recited in claim 23, wherein the one or more decorative ornaments comprise one or more of beads, crystals, stones, and gems.

25. (*Previously Presented*) The arrangement as recited in claim 23 wherein the at least one hook comprises a wire having a diameter between about 0.0625 inches and about 0.125 inches.

26-49. (*Cancelled*)

50. (*Previously Presented*) The arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein the first ornament and the second ornament comprise two of a plurality of ornaments providing an ornament chain.

51. (*Previously Presented*) The arrangement as recited in claim 50, wherein the ornament chain is at least 5 feet in length.

52-53. (*Cancelled*)

54. (*Previously Presented*) An arrangement for connecting decorative ornaments, the arrangement comprising:

a first ornament having at most a first aperture and a second aperture;

a second ornament having at least a first aperture;

at least one third ornament having at least one aperture; and

at least one continuous connector adapted to be inserted into and bent to engage an aperture of at least the first ornament, the second ornament, and the third ornament; and

wherein the first ornament, the second ornament, and the third ornament are in spaced relationship with each other.

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55. (*Previously Presented*) The arrangement as recited in claim 54, wherein the at least one continuous connector comprises a connector fabricated from one of sheet and plate.

56. (*Previously Presented*) The arrangement as recited in claim 54, wherein the at least one continuous connector comprises at least two continuous connectors.

57. (*Previously Presented*) The arrangement as recited in claim 55, wherein the at least one continuous connector fabricated from one of sheet and plate is fabricated by one or more of the following processes: laser cutting, water-jet cutting, and electro-discharge machining.

58. (*Previously Presented*) The arrangement as recited in claim 54, wherein the first ornament, second ornament, and third ornament comprise a plurality of ornaments providing an ornament chain.

59. (*Previously Presented*) The arrangement as recited in claim 58, wherein the ornament chain is at least 5 feet in length.

60-62. (*Cancelled*)

63. (*Previously Presented*) The arrangement as recited in claim 10, wherein the first connector and the second connector comprise at least one pre-formed U-shaped connector having ends adapted to be inserted into an aperture of an ornament.

64. (*Previously Presented*) The arrangement as recited in claim 13, wherein the first connector and the second connector comprise metallic wire having a diameter between about 0.062 inches and about 0.125 inches.

65. (*Previously Presented*) The arrangement as recited in claim 50, wherein the ornament chain comprises a single-row chain of at least 10 ornaments.

66. (*Previously Presented*) The arrangement as recited in claim 65, wherein the first wire connector and the second wire connector are adapted to reduce aperture

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loading on the at least 10 ornaments compared to aperture loading on ornaments mounted with single wire connectors.

67. *(Previously Presented)* The arrangement as recited in claim 65, wherein the first wire connector and the second wire connector are adapted to minimize misalignment of the at least 10 ornaments compared to ornaments mounted with single wire connectors.

68. *(Previously Presented)* The arrangement as recited in claim 54, wherein the at least one continuous connector comprises loops in the continuous connector adapted to be inserted into and bent to engage ornament apertures.

69. *(Previously Presented)* The arrangement as recited in claim 68, wherein the loops in the continuous connector comprise elongated loops formed in the continuous connector.